

Appl. No. 10/624, 507

Reply to Office Action of dated January 24, 2007

REMARKS

We thank the Examiner for carefully consideration given to this application.

Claims

Claims 1, 9 and 15 have been amended for clarity and to recite a power controller.

Claim 3 has been amended to depend on claim 2, and to add minor changes.

Claim 6 has been amended to consistently use the term "protocol identifier", rather than "identification signal".

Claim 7 has been amended to bring it into conformity with amended claim 1 and for clarity.

Claim 10 has been amended to replace "includes" with --include--.

Claims 11 and 12 have been amended for clarity and to add minor changes.

Claim 13 has been amended to bring it into conformity with amended claim 1.

Claim 14 has been amended for clarity.

New dependent claims 16-20 have been added.

The amendments made to the claims are fully supported by the application as originally filed. In particular, support for the amendments made to claims 1, 9 and 15 and support for new claims 16-20 can be found, for example, in the description at page 5, lines 15-20 and page 6, line 6-page 7, line 6. No new matter has been introduced by way of the amendments made to the claims.

Claim Rejections 35 USC 112

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3 and 6-8 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, stating that the term "connectable" in claim 1 is unclear.

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Claim 1 has been amended for clarity. The term "connectable" has been changed to "configured to connect". Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections.

Claim Rejections 35 USC 103

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 6, 9-11, and 15 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pascolini (US Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0069300) in view of Lee (US Patent No. 7,069,346). The Examiner rejected claims 3 and 12 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pascolini in view of Lee and Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA). The Examiner rejected claims 7, 8, 13, and 14 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pascolini in view of Lee and Yu (US Patent No. 5,081,627).

The Examiner has stated: "the combination of Pascolini and Lee fails to teach the system further comprising a power controller for controlling electrical power to the switches ... Yu teaches, in an analogous system, the above limitation (see paragraph bridging columns 3 and 4). ... One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to make such modification so that DCE would not require a its own power supply, thereby reducing the cost of the system."

Yu discloses a remote diagnostic monitor device (RDMD) 18 installed between data terminal equipment DTE 14 and data communications equipment DCE 16. The power is supplied from the DTE 14 to the RDMD 18 and the DCE 16 by interconnecting the RDMD 18 between the DTE 14 and DCE 16. The RDMD 18 does not control power consumption of any elements in the DTE 14. The DCE 16 does not send any protocol identifier. Thus, the RDMD 18 does not detect any protocol identifier from the DCE 16.

Yu fails to disclose or suggest controlling power to the switches in the DTE, depending on whether the DTE (port) is coupled to the DCE, as recited in claims 1 and 9. Yu fails to disclose or suggest controlling power to the switches, depending on the detection of the protocol identifier, as recited in claim 15. Yu and the other cited references cannot add any teachings to Pascolini and Lee to render claims 1, 9 and 15 unpatentable.

The dependent claims contain additional features not disclosed or suggested by Yu. Yu fails to disclose or suggest that the power controller controls (disables) electrical power to

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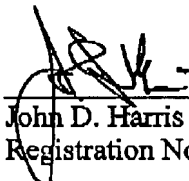
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the switches in the DTE depending on the detection of the protocol identifier from the DCE, as recited in claim 7 (claim 16). Yu fails to disclose or suggest that the power controller disables electrical power to the switches in the DTE when the DTE and the DCE are in a non-coupling position, as recited in claim 14. Yu fails to disclose or suggest that the power controller disables power to the switches in the DTE by periodically detecting the protocol identifier from the DCE, as recited in claim 17. Yu fails to disclose or suggest that the power controller disables the power to the switches by periodically detecting the protocol identifier provided through a port, as recited in claim 20.

Hence it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-3 and 6-20 are patentable in view of the cited reference. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections.

In view of the above amendments and arguments reconsideration and consequent allowance of claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,



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